



In This Issue:

Fono to discuss bill proposing to privatize ASTCA
Pg. 2

Administration to submit bill regarding matai titles
Pg. 5

Governor Togiola participates in US delegation with Secretary Rice
Pg. 2

Governor speaks on progress in the Manu'a Islands
Pg. 2

Governor submits bill for \$6.6 million to pay for Laufou
Pg. 2

Historical Notes & much, much more...

For additional news, information and much, much more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.americansamoa.gov>

Gov. Togiola participates in US delegation with Secretary Rice at Foreign Ministers meeting in Samoa



(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono, on Saturday, July 26th, participated in a Foreign Ministers meeting as part of the US Delegation, headed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The meeting at Aggie's Lagoon Resort in Mulifanua was hosted by the Independent State of Samoa.

The meeting started promptly at 1:30 pm with the arrival of Secretary Rice after a brief private discussion with Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi.

In attendance were fifteen foreign ministers, all members of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, including delegates from Australia, Fiji, Samoa, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu, Guam, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Palau and Papua New Guinea.

Also participating as a member of the US Delegation was the Honorable Felix Camacho, Governor of Guam. Three senior staff members of the Secretary of State rounded out the rest of the US Delegation.

Among the topics of discussion at the meeting were Maritime Security, Food and Energy Security and Global Climate Change. Secretary Rice stated emphatically that the US is a Pacific nation that is committed to the development of Pacific islands, their economies and their security.

Secretary Rice also presented a number of initiatives that the United States has spearheaded as part of the American support for the Pacific, including the establishment of a regional environmental office as part of the US Office in Suva, Fiji; a new project headed by both the US and New Zealand known as the Energy Development Partnership and the Island Nations Initiative. The focus of these projects is the development of clean energy alternatives.

Secretary Rice also issued a statement concerning the US position on Fiji elections. The US, as a staunch supporter of democracy, would like to see the Fiji military government hold elections, as promised in March of 2009.

(Continued on page 2)

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7
Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

Fono to discuss bill proposing to privatize ASTCA

A bill proposing the privatization of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) is set to be introduced during the fourth regular session of the Fono's 30th Legislature.

During the Fono opening, Governor Togiola Tulafono said that private phone companies have complained about the advantages that ASTCA has with support from the government.

According to the Governor, ASTCA will be established along the same lines as the Development Bank of American Samoa, and he believes ASTCA would be able to function on its own.

The proposed measure, Togiola explained, would include a provision stating that all profits from ASTCA are to be turned over to the American Samoa Government.

Over the years, ASTCA has paid several loans for ASG.

Governor Togiola participates in US delegation with Secretary Rice...

(from page 1)

Governor Togiola expressed his delight on being a part of the US delegation at the Samoa meeting.

"That our protector and benefactor is taking a serious look at the Pacific, is something that we've advocated for many years. This visit by Secretary Rice, and her recognition of Governor Camacho and myself as part of the US Delegation is a welcome development and we will support this type of engagement in any way we can," said Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola also said the discussion centering on global climate change is also timely as it was only last year that American Samoa hosted the Coral Reef Task Force meeting and American Samoa took the lead in adopting stringent climate change initiatives which he set forth in an executive order.

"I applaud the Bush Administration for their efforts at deeper engagement in the Pacific and I encourage further development of Pacific initiatives along the lines the Secretary discussed in our meeting. As always, the Territory of American Samoa stands ready to assist its parent nation in any such endeavor into the future," said Governor Togiola.



*Governor Togiola
Talalelei
Tulafono,
Secretary of State
Condoleezza Rice
and Samoa Prime
Minister Tuilaepa
Sa'ilele
Malielegaoi*

Administration to submit bill regarding matai titles

A new Administration bill adds a criteria for the court to consider when deciding matai title cases in dispute.

The Governor said during the opening of the Fono's session that there is a growing trend of families not wanting to deliberate and agree on vacant matai title successors but instead, rushing to the courts to settle their disputes.

Such disputes are a result of the lack of family consensus and negotiations.

The proposed bill adds a new criteria for the courts to consider when deciding matai title cases. It places more emphasis on the family's decision on who should occupy the title, and removes from the court's consideration, the promise of blood qualification.

The Governor explained that one intent of the proposed measure is to replace the method of determining a claimant's right to hold the family title with a simple factor which only requires that a recognized blood connection to the title be established.

According to Togiola, the framework for the bill will be submitted to the Fono for input and review.

Governor speaks on progress in the Manu'a Islands

Governor Togiola Tulafono spoke about the Administration's contribution to the progress in the Manu'a Islands during his speech today in celebration of Manu'a Cession Day.

The Governor highlighted the progress made in transportation, health care, and education, the three areas that he says the Manu'a District continually raises.

For healthcare, Togiola pointed out that the new Ta'u Dispensary is complete and includes a morgue, which means Manu'a residents no longer have to transport their departed loved ones to Tutuila and then back to Manu'a for burial.

The new dispensary offer services like baby clinics, prenatal care, deliveries, immunizations, and follow up treatment for chronic cases. In addition, the new facility also features living quarters for a doctor and nurse.

As for education, Togiola quoted Director of Education Dr. Claire Poumele who stated that the Manu'a classrooms and facilities were in better condition than many on Tutuila. He also applauded the participation of Manu'a students and teachers in island-wide competitions like the science fair, speech festival, math competition, music festival, and JROTC competition.

The Governor recognized DOE Teacher of the Year Patricia Tuimalealiifano Fuiava who was the first teacher from Manu'a to ever win the annual award.

With regards to transportation, Togiola said that the dredging of Faleasao and Ofu harbors are completed, while work on the Ta'u Harbor is underway.

The Governor explained that the MV Sili is undergoing major repairs and will be sent to Honolulu but in the meantime, Samoa's Fotu o Samoa has been chartered to serve the needs of the people of Manu'a until the MV Sili is back in operation.

Togiola said that the Administration aims to make available to the Manu'a Islands the same services available in American Samoa as the two islands are under one territory but the fact is, making things happen for the Manu'a Islands is both costly and difficult.

However, the Governor concluded, the Administration has not forgotten about Manu'a, and this is evident through the many projects that have been completed.

ASPA looking for company to conduct study on turning trash into energy

The American Samoa Power Authority is advertising for Request for Proposals (RFP) from companies interested in conducting a study on how to turn the garbage at the Futiga Landfill into energy.

The waste to energy project has received the nod of support from the ASPA Board of Directors and management.

The RFP states that ASPA wishes to contract a professional firm to conduct a waste composition study at the Futiga Landfill and provide recommendations to size and scope a power generation facility.

The deadline to submit proposals is August 26.

ASPA CEO Mike Keyser told local media outlets that the energy from waste has the potential of off-setting 3+ million gallons of diesel per year, or \$15+ million dollars in fuel costs.

He explained that using wave power, wind, or solar energy to generate such savings would require huge capital resources, and added that the territory needs more than one renewable energy source and garbage power is the one which will have the most impact.

Keyser told local media outlets that ASPA wishes to pursue the opportunity vigorously, and paramount to them is a waste characterization analysis which will include an estimate of the quantity of municipal solid waste (MSW) collected by ASPA.

Data will be collected through on-site sorting and supplemented with waste generation rates and American Samoa Customs import/export data. The study will also establish an EFW facility capacity and energy output estimates, in addition to recommending appropriate technologies to be operated in conjunction with a small sanitary landfill to receive the ash byproduct.

Keyser reports that such a facility would reduce the quantity of waste destined for the landfill by 90% and would therefore allow ASPA to extend the life of the landfill by a significant margin.

Governor submits bill for \$6.6 million to pay for Laufou fire ruling

The Administration has submitted to the Fono a bill appropriating \$6.6 million to pay a court ruling against the American Samoa Government for losses that resulted from the devastating fire that wiped out the Laufou Shopping Center in Nuuuli.

The source of funding, according to the bill, will be unbudgeted and unexpended funds from fiscal year 2008 and every other subsequent fiscal year until the amount is paid in full.

Last year, the trial court ruled that it was through the negligence of firefighters that a small fire was permitted to get out of control and consume the Laufou Shopping Center. Subsequently, the government was ordered to pay \$6.6 million plus post judgment interest to Progressive Insurance Company.

The bill, along with a list of others from the Administration, will be introduced on August 4, when the Fono convenes for its final session.

Pago Pago village gets money to eradicate tamaligi trees

The village of Pago Pago has been awarded \$15,000 from Seacology, an environmental organization, to eradicate the invasive tamaligi trees that are located outside the National Park but on Pago Pago land.

The grant was awarded through an application submitted by the American Samoa National Park with the consent of the Pago Pago village council.

The grant money was sought after and needed as Park funds cannot be used to eradicate tamaligi trees outside the National Park jurisdiction.

The work will be carried out by Pago Pago villagers.

Tamaligi trees are invasive species that the American Samoa National Park has been trying to eradicate over the past few years. The trees pose a threat to native species and efforts are being made to rid the territory of them.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On July 26, 2001, the American Samoa Government, DELTA Consortium and PEACESAT dedicated the 7.2 Meter Hubsite Satellite Antenna at Tafuna, American Samoa. In his dedication speech, Lieutenant Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono praised the hard work of DELTA and PEACESAT personnel in bringing the project to completion.

On July 26, 2001, Governor H(yrum) Rex Lee, American Samoa's seventh appointed civil governor, passed away in La Jolla, California. He was 91 years old.

Lee spent over four decades in U.S. government service, among which was his appointment as Governor of American Samoa from 1961 to 1967. Lee was a native of Rigby, Idaho, and a graduate in agricultural economics from the University of Idaho. In 1936, he entered government service as an economist with the Department of Agriculture. During World War II, he served with the War Relocation Authority and was assigned to relocate Japanese-Americans. Later Lee worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs before being appointed Governor of American Samoa. On May 24, 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Lee as American Samoa's seventh appointed civil governor (until July 31, 1967), succeeding Governor Peter Tali Coleman, who was the Territory's only appointed Samoan governor. Lee's first term was the longest of any of American Samoa's governors (civil or naval), and he served an additional half-year term (May 28, 1977-January 3, 1978), thus becoming the longest-serving appointed civil governor, and the only appointed civil governor to serve two non-consecutive terms.

His administration saw the establishment of a new airport, roads, schools, a luxury hotel in to cultivate the tourist industry, two fish canneries, new harbor facilities, an impressive educational television system, and numerous other innovations. In 1966, when American Samoa had the opportunity of reunifying with Western Samoa, its citizens chose to remain a territory of the United States.

After his six-year tenure in American Samoa, Lee received the Award for Distinguished Federal Civil Service and was appointed to the Federal Communications Commission where he worked until his retirement in 1973. He moved to California and became a founding chairman of the Public Service Satellite Consortium and helped establish educational television in several South American countries.

On July 29, 1942, SS *Lurline* dropped anchor in Pago Pago Harbor at 8:06 a.m. Private First Class Will Pepper of the 22nd Marines wrote this entry in his journal: "This island is very beautiful. The vegetation-covered mountains extend almost to the waters. It is different from the kind of vegetation back home [in central Mississippi]. There are a lot of palm trees, and dense vines covering the mountains." After unloading "hundreds of bags of mail," *Lurline* weighed anchor at 11:30 a.m., en route to Apia, arriving there at 4:30 p.m.

On August 1, 1967, Owen Aspinall began his term as American Samoa's eighth appointed civil governor (until July 31, 1969).

On August 1, 1969, John Morse Haydon, prominent Seattle Republican and publisher of the *Marine Digest*, who was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel as American Samoa's ninth civil governor, began his term of office (until October 15, 1974).

ASCC/CNR Aids Wallis & Futuna Ava Ceremony

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Just as the 10th Festival of the Pacific Arts got underway last week, the staff of the Community & Natural Resources (CNR) division of the American Samoa Community College provided some special assistance to enable the delegation from neighboring island nation Wallis & Futuna to conduct a culturally appropriate 'ava ceremony.

This past Monday, CNR Director Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Aga and Department of Agriculture (DOA) Director Peter Gurr officially donated a stool of 'ava Samoa to George Pilioko Siolesio, who represents the delegation from Wallis and Futuna. The delegation requested the 'ava through an arrangement with the Festival organizing committee and the DOA after learning that they could not bring their own 'ava with them due to the Territory's strong enforcement of the quarantine laws that protect us from invasive species, pests and diseases.

Dr. Aga commented, "The CNR Forestry division under the leadership of Malaetia Mike Misa, Forestry Program Manager, helps protect the island from invasive species, but we also realized the cultural importance of enabling our guests to conduct their ceremony properly. After all, we Samoans and the people of Wallis & Futuna share a common heritage with the 'ava. We happily performed this service for our guests, as it also gave us a chance to collaborate with our partner agency the DOA as well

as the organizers of the Arts Festival."

For the CNR staff, finding just the right 'ava for the visitors provided a chance for them to demonstrate American Samoa's world-famous hospitality. "Siaosi, the delegate from Wallis & Futuna, explained the importance of having a green, fresh-out-of-the-ground ava plant as part of their presentation," said Dr. Aga. "I'm glad Malaetia and the Forestry staff helped him realize his country's wishes, and I think American Samoa got to witness something authentic and from the heart. Siaosi was the first delegate I met, and from that point the Festival began for me."



(ASCC-CNR /Land Grant) Acting Director Aufa'i Areta (second left) and Forestry Program Manager Malala Misa (far left) present bamboo stems donated by ASCC-CNR to Maurice Padane (front right) and members of the delegation from New Caledonia for the delegation's bamboo musical instruments to be used in their performance in the 10th Festival of the Pacific Arts. (Photo: CNR)



Department of Agriculture Director Peter Gurr (far left) and CNR/Land Grant Director Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Aga (third left) display the fresh ava stalks supplied by CNR last week to the delegation from Wallis & Futuna, enabling the latter to hold a culturally appropriate ava ceremony as part of the Festival of the Pacific Arts. (Photo: CNR)



(ASCC-CNR (Land Grant) Acting Director Aufa'i Areta (far left) and Forestry Program Manager Malala Misa (far left front row), forestry staff, local festival committee members, and traditional healers from the Pacific countries participating in the 10th Festival of the Pacific Arts pose for the cameras before the tour of the ASCC-CNR medicinal garden plot conducted by the CNR forestry staff members. (Photo: CNR)

Governor lists critical items for Fono's last session

In addition to the Administration bill that proposes to privatize the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) and the measure that calls for the appropriation of \$6.6 million to pay the Laufou fire ruling, Governor Togiola has other items that will be submitted for discussion during the Fono's last session.

They include an appropriation of \$500K annually for the Development Bank of American Samoa, an increase of funding for LBJ Medical Center's off-island medical referral program, the purchase of police cars for the Manu'a Islands, and the establishment of the

American Samoa Department of Homeland Security by statute.

In addition, the Administration is also proposing to convene and fund a constitutional convention following the elections.

As for pending matters, Togiola appealed to lawmakers to act on an Administration bill that gives customs officers more power and establishes penalties for importers that break the law. In addition, the Governor is also requesting that lawmakers move on the end-of-life bill which would state the patient's preference in the event that they are seriously ill and cannot make decisions for themselves.

The Governor explained that the federal government continues to question the lack of such legislation and its continuous absence may impact future funding for the local hospital.

PNRS approves Fagatogo Malae bathrooms with conditions

The Project Notification and Review System Board has finally approved the construction of bathroom facilities at the Fagatogo Malae with conditions, one of which includes a fine of \$500 for the Department of Public Works for building the bathrooms without a land use permit.

And instead of the original plan that the new restrooms would cater only to VIPs, the decision has been made that the bathrooms will be open to the public.

The PNRS will monitor the excavation work to connect the bathrooms to the Fagatogo sewer line and the work is set to be completed in time for the ava ceremony for the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts.

The bathroom was built without a permit and by the time the permit application was reviewed, the project was nearing completion.

Evidently, the PNRS had some concerns about the project, which include its location on the malae and its close proximity to a stream next to the pavilion. The initial plan was to install a septic tank for the bathroom but the end result was a direct connection to the sewer line.

Many concerns were voiced about the bathrooms potentially hurting the cultural value of the malae and its traditional significance but the good news is, the bathrooms aren't located on the malae itself but instead, off to the side.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)